

Abdominal Wounds



3D Marines

Abdominal Wounds

The most serious abdominal wound is one in which an object penetrates the abdominal wall and pierces internal organs or large blood vessels. In these instances, bleeding may be severe and death can occur rapidly.



Treatment of Abdominal Wounds

1. Evaluate the Casualty.

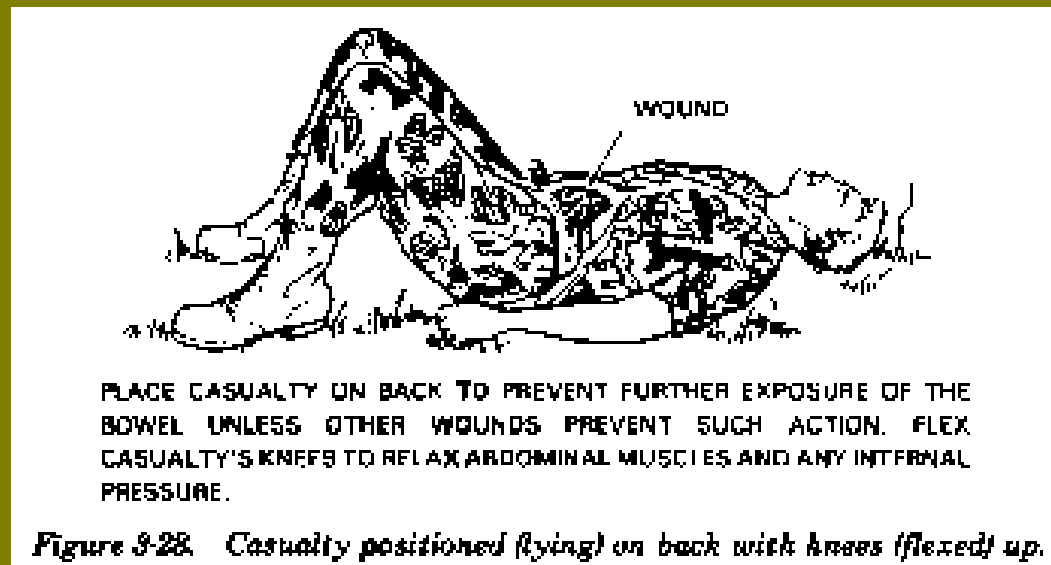
- a. Be prepared to perform basic lifesaving measures. It is necessary to check for both entry and exit wounds. If there are two wounds (entry and exit), treat the wound that appears more serious first (for example, the heavier bleeding, protruding organs, larger wound, and so forth). It may be necessary to improvise dressings for the second wound by using strips of cloth, a T-shirt, or the cleanest material available.



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2. *Position the Casualty.*

- a. Place and maintain the casualty on his back with his knees in an upright (flexed) position. The knees-up position helps relieve pain, assists in the treatment of shock, prevents further exposure of the bowel (intestines) or abdominal organs and helps relieve abdominal pressure by allowing the abdominal muscles to relax.



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3. Expose the Wound.

- a. Remove the casualty's loose clothing to expose the wound. However, DO NOT attempt to remove clothing that is stuck to the wound; it may cause further injury. Thus, remove any loose clothing from the wound but leave in place the clothing that is stuck.
- b. Gently pick up any organs which may be on the ground. Do this with a clean, dry dressing or with the cleanest available material. Place the organs on top of the casualty's abdomen.



CAUTION

DO NOT REMOVE protective clothing in a chemical environment. Apply dressings *over* the protective clothing.

DO NOT probe, clean, or try to remove any foreign object from the abdomen.

DO NOT touch with bare hands any exposed organs.

DO NOT push organs back inside the body.



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4. *Apply the Field Dressing.* Use the casualty's field dressing, not your own. If the field dressing is not large enough to cover the entire wound, the plastic wrapper from the dressing may be used to cover the wound first (placing the field dressing on top). Open the plastic wrapper carefully without touching the inner surface, if possible. If necessary, other improvised dressings may be made from clothing, blankets, or the cleanest materials available because the field dressing and/or wrapper may not be large enough to cover the entire wound.



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- a. Field dressings can be covered with improvised reinforcement material (cravats, strips of torn T-shirt, or other cloth), if available, for additional support and protection. Tie improvised bandage on the opposite side of the dressing ties firmly enough to prevent slipping but without applying additional pressure to the wound.

CAUTION (081-31-1025)

DO NOT give casualties with abdominal wounds food nor water (moistening the lips is allowed).



Any Questions?



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